(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is the basis on which existing royalty has been determined?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDAR): (a) to (c) The rates of royalty on coal were last revised in February, 1981 and were due for revision in February, 1985. However the rates have not been revised so far mainly because most of the coal producing states were levying heavy cesses on coal. Since levy of cesses by most State Governments has been set aside by courts, a proposal to enhance the rates of royalty on coal is under consideration of Government of India.

(d) The rates of royalty on coal fixed in 1981 and being continued were determined as a fixed percentage of pithead price of each group of coal prevailing at that time.

Increase in air passengers

46. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total increase in demand for air passengers expected in different sectors in the country during the next three years and the manner in which Government plan to meet the demand;

(b) what is the actual shortage of capacity in comparison to demand in different sectors; and

(c) by when Government plan to have enough capacity to meet the requirement of air passengers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines expects the growth in traffic (in terms of Revenue Passenger Kilometres) to be of the order or 22 per cent in 1991-92, 16 per cent in 1992-93, 12.5 per cent in 1993-94 and 10 per cent in 1994-95 as compared to the preceding year. With the full reinduction of the 18 A-320 aircraft in its fleet at present and with the acquisition of 12 more A-320 aircraft from November 1992 onwards, Indian Airlines will be in a position to cater to the traffic demand.

Last minute air reservations

47. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to enable air passengers to get the reservation on any flight in the country on demand at the last minute; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) With the reinduction of the A-320 fleet. Indian Airlines will be increasing the seat capacity offered. It will be the constant endeavour of Indian Airlines to offer capacity that would meet the traffic demand, subject of course to traffic potential and commercial viability justifying it.

Hydro Power Generation Project in North-Eastern Region and Himachal Pradesh

48. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON - CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state·

(a) what is the capacity of Hydro-Power generation projects in the North-Eastern region and in Himachal Pradesh and how much of this has been harnessed till date;

(b) what are the schemes of Government to utilise these Hydro-potential projects for the next two years;